A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, January 17. 1708.

I Have been ſpeaking to that Article of our Complaints, which reſpects our ſecret Enemies, Traytors and Betrayers of their Country, who are Tools of our Enemies, and betray us to the *French*; every good Man would pray, that all ſuch may be detected, and for my part I wiſh they were all detected, and us'd as they deſerve; and that on a double Account, *firſt*, that the Correſpondence might be broke, and the Miſchief it ſelf prevented; and *ſecondly*, that we might ſee who they are, what Party theſe State-Murtherers belong to, that Villains may be known, and the Innocent be no more accuſed.

All Men will diſcover their Averſion no doubt to a Traytor, and be ready to diſown him when diſcover'd; but let us once come to this Examination, WHICH PARTY is it that correſponds with our Enemies? Are they, generally ſpeaking, *High* or *Low*, moderate *Church men* or *Tackers*? And upon this Point the Reputation of Parties might be very juſtly ſtated, and there I leave it.

The ſecond Article is about *Miſmanagement of Perſons in publick Employment*; and of this a great Deal has been ſaid, and 'tis very hard that a Man cannot ſteer the middle and juſt Courſe, but he ſhall be charged with defending the Guilty—But I'll clear my ſelf of that Charge by this publick Declaration, as to my own Opinion.

I make no Queſtion but there are Miſmanagements in publick Employments, *Army*, *Navy*, Abroad, at Home, *at Sea* and *on Shore*, and what Age has there been without them? All I can ſay to them is, I would to GOD they were all detected upon

on the ſame Account as before, both that the Guilty may be expoſed and puniſhed, the Miſchief prevented, and the Innocent be clear'd from Scandal and perpetual Suſpicion, a thing which only tends to make us all uneaſie.

Have any of our Councils been betray'd, our Treaſure miſapply'd, Stores embezel'd, Fleets delay'd, Trade been unguarded, Coaſts and Stationary Guards neglected, Orders not given, or when given not been obey'd? In ſhort, has any of your publick Men not done their Duty? The Parliament is ſitting, the Time of Retribution is before you, Power is in your Hands, let them be brought to Juſtice, detected, expos'd, and puniſh'd as Traytors to their Country, and as Weapons in the Hand of our Enemies, by which they beat us more than they can do, either with Sword or Gun; for there is no publick Oppoſition can do us half the Harm, that theſe Negative Aſſailants do us.

But if any Man will impartially weigh, what I have been upon in this Caſe, it is to detect thoſe, who crying out of Miſmanagements do not aim at turning out and puniſhing the Perſons guilty, but the Party governing, and who aim not at depoſing them as Men, but as *Whigs*; and if I am not right here, I can be right no where.

I offer'd theſe Gentlemen a Trial of their Integrity upon the Article of their clamouring at the Miniſtry, whether they would be content, *ſince they charge the whole Miniſtry with all our Diſaſters*; that the Miniſtry being chang'd, ſhould be chang'd into Hands unexceptionable as to any Miſmanagement, only ſtill remaining *Whigs*——— And upon this Iſſue I left it, ſince if they would ingenuouſly anſwer this Point, all the reſt would be determin'd, and it would ſoon appear, that the Deſign was not the depoſing or changing our publick Men as Men, but as a Party, not as Miſmanagers, but as *Whigs*; and I think, I need not enter into this,

To put this therefore to rights, the preſent View of every honeſt Man is to continue the Adminiſtration in the Hands of her Majeſty's and the Nation's Friends; the Friends to Peace, to Moderation, to Liberty, Union, Tolleration and Revolution, *the Foundations of our preſent Happineſs*; and if among theſe any *Judas* can be found, any ſecret Enemy or falſe Friend, any wicked or ſlothful, any negligent or unfaithful Servant, let the ſtricteſt Search be made, let the exacteſt Accounts be taken, and let ſuch be carry'd out without the Camp, *as of Old*, a Token of their being abhorr'd of all the Congregation, and there let them be puniſh'd as they deſerve.

I contemn the Suggeſtions of thoſe Scribblers, who would inſinuate that I am palliating the Crimes of the Nations Traytors; no, no, may the Juſtice of GOD find them all out, and the Juſtice of Man make them a Terror to all Villains; but when ye come to talk of turning out Parties upon the Pretence of Perſonal Crimes, it is meet to let you know, I ſee through it, and to take Care that all the Nation may ſee through it alſo,

Rogues may be detected and puniſhed, without bringing in a whole Party of worſe Devils then thoſe we caſt out— A bleſſed Propoſition this is! Bring in a *High-Flying* Adminiſtration, becauſe the *Whigs* have ſome Rogues among them: This is *ſinking the Ship, indeed to drown the Rats*; this is juſt the contrary to our Saviour's Parable, it is juſt *pulling the Wheat up with the Tares*; this would be not blowing up a Houſe to ſave a Street, but blowing up the Town to ſave the Houſes from Fire; it would be like Quartering Dragoons upon a Town to ſave them from Pick-Pockets; and that this is the thing aim'd at is plain, and I think it needs no farther Teſtimony.

But all this does not prevent the detecting Treachery, the puniſhing Neglect, or the removing all ſuch as have been deficient, *I mean wilfully ſo*, in their Duty, no honeſt Man is or will be for defending ſuch; may he be expoſed as an Enemy to his Country, and in a Plot againſt the Nation's Liberties, as a Confederate of *France*, and a Friend to Tyranny, that ſets his Pen to Paper in their Vindication, or to cool the publick Reſentments againſt them.

MISCELLANEA.

IN all my Writings, as well as in this Paper, it has been my Endeavour, and ever shall be I hope, to steer the middle Way between all our Extremes, and while I am applauding the Beauty and Lustre of Temper and Moderation to practice it my self.

If any Man thinks, I was so ignorant as not to know, I should be fallen upon on both sides by the fiery, furious, out of Temper Party-Makers of every Sort, he must think me more ignorant, than I hope I shall give him any Occasion to suppose.

One flyes upon his Brethren for Hypocrites, and pushes at the old Game of Persecution, and when I tell him of Moderation, then I am pulling down the Church of *England*.

Another joyns Battle in the Streets with their Antagonists of the Mob, till they come to Tumult and rabbling the Magistrates; and if I tell them of the Military Power assisting the Magistrates to suppress Rebellion, oppose Tumults, and keep the Peace, then I am overthrowing the Constitution.

If I meet with treacherous *Whigs* flying in the Face of Union, and forging Jealousies among their Neighbours, joyning Hands with *Jacobites* and *High-Flyers*, and paving their Way for reviving all the Miseries of Blood and War, which these two Nations have so long groan'd under; if I lay before them the Advantages of Union and Peace, the Effects of National Security, Flux of Commerce, and the like, then behold and lo, the Man is an Emissary, one calls him an Envoy of the *Presbyterians*, another an Emissary of *France*, a third a Tool of the State.

If a third sets a particular Emphasis upon one Part of the War, which I judge prejudicial to another, and says the Naval War is before the Army War, and I tell him calmly of a Party, who cry out the same thing, and warn him whose Work he is doing— Tho' at the same time I tell him plainly beforehand, that I own, the Sea-Service is vigorously to be push'd according to our utmost Ability, not neglecting the Land-Service as the Main, yet I am answer'd by Railery and Scoundrel Language, as if I were discouraging the Sea Affairs.

If a *Whig* in Masquerade affronts King *William*, and reproaches him with rejecting Advice, being of a stiff Temper, rejecting what he might have done for us, and rewarding Men for libelling the Nation; if I attempt with Justice and Calmness to do Right to his Glorious Memory, with what villainous Language am I treated, such as I am sure no Man of Sence ought to give to another, and such as I perswade my self they would not give me to my Face, and for less than which, their Predecessor, I believe, was murther'd.

Through all these Extremes I steer unconcerned, I regard none of their Malice or Madness, I pursue according to my best Judgment the Golden Mean of Peace, and practise to my uttermost the Moderation I press others to; their scoundrel Language, their Reproach of being employ'd, I contemn with the utmost Dis-regard; I thank GOD, all the Work I have been doing is such, that if I had been employ'd, it had been an Honour to the Employer and to the Employ'd, for I have been doing nothing but what has tended to the saving Nations, establishing Liberty, improving Trade, and doing good to All; Tools and Emissaries are employ'd to cheat People into Mischief, not deliver them from it, to enflame and divide, not to reconcile and unite, as I shall farther explain, when I come to the third Head.

Let Envy and Scandal therefore go on, I smile at their Rage, and 'tis a Testimony to the Operation of what I am upon — And therefore I chearfully leave them to abuse me, only taking Care as far as I can, that they shall not deceive the World with false Glosses, and misrepresent Things to the publick Disadvantage.

From these clamouring Subjects, I now turn my self to that more material Article of our Commerce, which I begun in some past Papers;